

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/808,492

Examiner

Beemnet W. Dada

Applicant(s)

OGAWA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 04/04/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas F. Presson, Reg. No. 41,442 on 05/06/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information playback apparatus for playing back a recording medium on which image information is recorded, comprising:

first fetching means for fetching identification information, input by a user, used for identification of a recording medium;

second fetching means for fetching a permission condition, input by the user, for permitting playback of the image information recorded on a recording medium;

storage means for storing the identification information fetched by said first fetching means and the permission condition fetched by said second fetching means;

extraction means for extracting the identification information recorded on a recording medium loaded in said information playback apparatus;

first comparison means for comparing the identification information extracted by said extraction means and the identification information stored in said storage means with each other;

third fetching means for fetching a permission condition when the identification information extracted by said extraction means and the identification information stored in said storage means coincide with each other;

second comparison means for comparing the permission condition fetched by said third fetching means and the permission condition stored in said storage means with each other; and

control means for controlling playback of the image information recorded on the recording medium in response to a result of the comparison by said second comparison means,

wherein said user is able to increase a value of said identification information, input by a user, used for identification of a recording medium and a value of said identification information recorded on a recording medium loaded in said information playback apparatus,

wherein the increased values of the identification information are written over ~~the~~ original values of the identification information in the storage means, and

wherein, if a maximum of identification information is achieved, ~~the~~ new identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable identification information.

4. (Currently Amended) An information playback method for an information playback apparatus which plays back a recording medium on which image information is recorded, comprising:

a first fetching step of fetching identification information, input by a user, used for identification of a recording medium;

a second fetching step of fetching a permission condition, input by the user, for permitting playback of the image information recorded on a recording medium;

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a storage control step of controlling storage of the identification information fetched by ~~the processing in~~ the first fetching step and the permission condition fetched by ~~the processing in~~ the second fetching step;

an extraction step of extracting the identification information recorded on a recording medium loaded in said information playback apparatus;

a first comparison step of comparing the identification information extracted by ~~the processing in~~ the extraction step and the identification information whose storage has been controlled by ~~the processing in~~ the storage control step with each other;

a third fetching step of fetching a permission condition when the identification information extracted by ~~the processing in~~ the extraction step and the identification information whose storage has been controlled by ~~the processing in~~ the storage control step coincide with each other;

a second comparison step of comparing the permission condition fetched by ~~the processing in~~ the third fetching step and the permission condition whose storage has been controlled by ~~the processing in~~ the storage control step with each other; and

a control step of controlling playback of the image information recorded on the recording medium in response to a result of the comparison by ~~the processing in~~ the second comparison step,

wherein said user is able to increase a value of said identification information, input by a user, used for identification of a recording medium and a value of said identification information recorded on a recording medium loaded in said information playback apparatus,

wherein the increased values of the identification information are written over ~~the~~ original

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values of the identification information in the storage control step, and

wherein, if a maximum of identification information is achieved, ~~the~~ new identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable identification information.

5. (Currently Amended) A recording medium on which a computer-readable program for information playback for an information playback apparatus which plays back an information recording medium on which image information is recorded is recorded, the program comprising:

a first fetching step of fetching identification information, input by a user, used for identification of an information recording medium;

a second fetching step of fetching a permission condition, input by the user, for permitting playback of the image information recorded on an information recording medium;

a storage control step of controlling storage of the identification information fetched by ~~the processing in~~ the first fetching step and the permission condition fetched by ~~the processing in~~ the second fetching step;

an extraction step of extracting the identification information recorded on an information recording medium loaded in said information playback apparatus;

a first comparison step of comparing the identification information extracted by the ~~processing in the~~ extraction step and the identification information whose storage has been controlled by ~~the processing in~~ the storage control step with each other;

a third fetching step of fetching a permission condition when the identification information extracted by ~~the processing in~~ the extraction step and the identification information whose storage has been controlled by ~~the processing in~~ the storage control step coincide with

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each other;

a second comparison step of comparing the permission condition fetched by the ~~processing in the~~ third fetching step and the permission condition whose storage has been controlled by ~~the processing in~~ the storage control step with each other; and

a control step of controlling playback of the image information recorded on the information recording medium in response to a result of the comparison by ~~the processing in~~ the second comparison step,

wherein said user is able to increase a value of said identification information, input by a user, used for identification of a recording medium and a value of said identification information recorded on an information recording medium loaded in said information playback apparatus,

wherein the increased values of the identification information are written over ~~the~~ original values of the identification information in the storage control step, and

wherein, if a maximum of identification information is achieved, ~~the~~ new identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable identification information.

6. (Currently Amended) An information playback apparatus for playing back a recording medium on which image information is recorded, comprising:

first fetching means for fetching from a store in said playback apparatus user-programmable viewing permission information, input by a user, for controlling playback from said recording medium;

second fetching means for fetching a permission condition, input by a user, for permitting playback of the image information recorded on said recording medium;

storage means for storing the viewing permission information and the permission condition;

comparison means for comparing the viewing permission information and the permission condition with each other; and

control means for controlling playback of the image information recorded on the recording medium as a function of the comparison means,

wherein said user is able to increase a value of said user-programmable viewing permission information, input by a user, for controlling playback from said recording medium and a value of said permission condition, input by a user, for permitting playback of the image information recorded on said recording medium,

wherein the increased values of the user-programmable viewing permission information and the permission condition are written over ~~the~~ original values of user-selected user-programmable viewing permission information and the permission condition in the storage means, and

wherein, if a maximum of identification information is achieved, new identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable identification information.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling playback of a recording medium comprising:

establishing a permission condition associated with a playback device, as a function of first input by a user;

storing the permission condition;

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establishing a recording medium identification for each of one or more recording media,
as a function of second input by the user;

storing the recording medium identification for each of the one or more recording media;
and

comparing the stored permission condition and the stored recording medium
identification for a particular recording medium,

wherein when the permission condition satisfies a predetermined relationship with the
recording medium identification, a valid password, input by a user, is required to initiate
playback of the particular recording medium,

wherein said user is able to increase a value of said permission condition associated with
said playback device and a value of said recording medium identification for each of said one or
more recording media,

wherein the increased value of said permission condition is written over ~~the~~ original value
of the permission condition in storage, and

wherein, if a maximum of the recording medium identification information is achieved,
new recording medium identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable
recording medium identification information.

13. (Currently Amended) An information playback apparatus for playing back a recording
medium on which image information is recorded, ~~apparatus for controlling playback of a
recording medium~~ comprising:

means for establishing a permission condition associated with a playback device, as a function of first input by a user;

means for storing the permission condition;

means for establishing a recording medium identification for each of one or more recording media, as a function of second input by the user;

means for storing the recording medium identification for each of the one or more recording media;

means for comparing the stored permission condition and the stored recording medium identification for a particular recording medium; and

means for controlling the playback of the particular recording medium wherein when the permission condition satisfies a predetermined relationship with the recording medium identification, a valid password, input by a user, is required to initiate playback of the particular recording medium,

wherein said user is able to increase a value of said permission condition associated with said playback device and a value of said recording medium identification for each of said one or more recording media,

wherein the increased value of said permission condition is written over ~~the~~ original value of the permission condition in the means for storage, and

wherein, if a maximum of the recording medium identification is achieved, new recording medium identification is written over a user-selected replaceable recording medium identification.

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Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beemnet W. Dada whose telephone number is (571) 272-3847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (9:00 am - 5:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Beemnet W Dada

June 6, 2007


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